

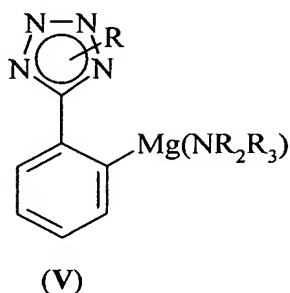
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A compound of formula (V)



wherein,

R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a protecting group, and a salifying group, and

R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are one of (i) the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of a straight or a branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> cycloalkyl group, and a trialkylsilyl group and (ii) taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are linked form a saturated, optionally substituted, heterocyclic ring, containing one to two further heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur ~~R, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are as defined in claim 1.~~

12. (currently amended) ~~A compound as defined in which is, which is~~ The compound according to claim 11,  
wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting  
of:

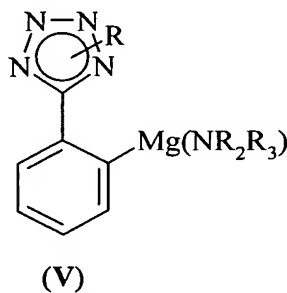
- 2-[2-t-butyl-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide;
- 2-[2-sodium-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide; [[or]] and
- 2-[2-(1-methyl-1-phenyl-ethyl)-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide.

13. (currently amended) A method of ~~using a compound of formula (V) for the preparation of~~ preparing a compound of formula (I) from a compound of formula (V), comprising:

~~preparing the compound of formula (I) from the compound of formula (V), wherein,~~

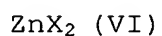
reacting the compound of formula (V) with one of a compound of formula (VI) and a compound of (VIa) to form a compound of formula (II),

the compound of formula (V) being



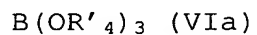
where R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a protecting group, and a salifying group, and R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are one of (i) the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of a straight or a branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> cycloalkyl group, and a trialkylsilyl group and (ii) taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are linked form a saturated, optionally substituted, heterocyclic ring, containing one to two further heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur,

the compound of formula (VI) being



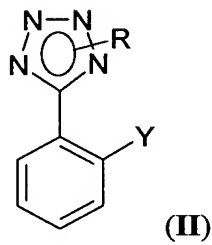
where X is a halogen atom selected from the group consisting of chlorine, bromine and iodine,

the compound of formula (VIa) being



where each R'<sub>4</sub> is independently a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group, and

the compound of formula (II) being

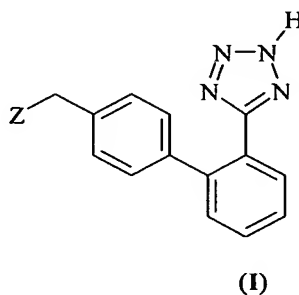


where R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a protecting group and a salifying group, Y is one of (i) a -ZnX group and (ii) a -B(OR<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, X is a halogen atom selected from the

group consisting of chlorine, bromine and iodine, and each R'<sub>4</sub>  
is independently a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group;

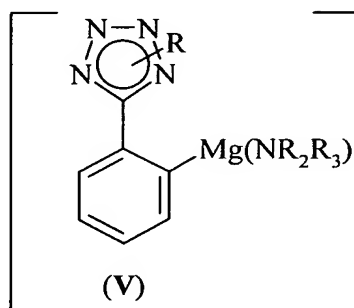
optionally hydrolyzing the resulting bornic ester  
of formula (II); and

producing the compound of formula (I) from the  
compound of formula (II), the compound of formula (I) [[is]]  
being



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, where Z is one  
of (i) an optionally substituted heterocycle containing at least  
one nitrogen atom and (ii) an amido residue,

~~the compound of formula (V) is~~



~~where R is hydrogen, a protecting group or a salifying group, and~~  
~~R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub>, are one of (i) the same or different, are straight or~~  
~~branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> cycloalkyl, trialkylsilyl, and (ii)~~  
~~taken together with the nitrogen atom they are linked to, form a~~

~~saturated, optionally substituted, heterocyclic ring, containing one to two further heteroatoms independently selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur.~~

14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein in the compound of formula (I) the residue Z is selected from:

2-butyl-4-chloro-5-hydroxymethyl-imidazol-1-yl;

2-ethoxy-7-carboxy-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl;

2-butyl-1,3-diaza-spiro[4,4]non-1-en-4-on-3-yl; and

(S)-N-(1-carboxy-2-methylprop-1-yl)-N-pentanoylamino.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) A method of ~~using a compound of formula (V) for the preparation of~~ preparing a compound of formula (I) from a compound of formula (V), comprising:

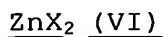
~~preparing the compound of formula (I) from the compound of formula (V), wherein,~~

reacting the compound of formula (V) with one of a compound of formula (VI) and a compound of (VIa) to form a compound of formula (II),

the compound of formula (V) being selected from the group consisting of: 2-[2-t-butyl-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl

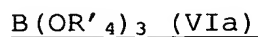
magnesium diisopropylamide, 2-[2-sodium-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-  
phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide, and 2-[2-(1-methyl-1-  
phenyl-ethyl)-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium  
diisopropylamide,

the compound of formula (VI) being



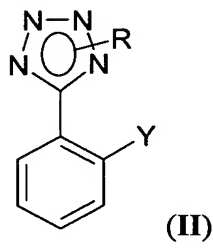
where X is a halogen atom selected from the group consisting  
of chlorine, bromine and iodine,

the compound of formula (VIa) being



where each R'<sub>4</sub> is independently a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group, and

the compound of formula (II) being

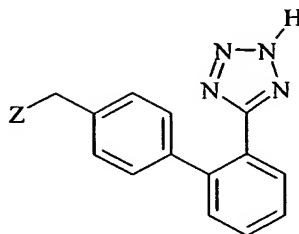


where R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a  
protecting group and a salifying group, Y is one of (i) a -ZnX  
group and (ii) a -B(OR<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, X is a halogen atom selected from the  
group consisting of chlorine, bromine and iodine, and each R'<sub>4</sub>  
is independently a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group;

optionally hydrolyzing the resulting bornic ester  
of formula (II); and

producing the compound of formula (I) from the

compound of formula (II), the compound of formula (I) [[is]]  
being



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, where Z is one of (i) an optionally substituted heterocycle containing at least one nitrogen atom and (ii) an amido residue, ~~and~~

~~the compound of formula (V) is selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~2-[2-t-butyl-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl—magnesium diisopropylamide, 2-[2-sodium-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl-magnesium diisopropylamide, and 2-[2-(1-methyl-1-phenyl-ethyl)-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl-magnesium diisopropylamide.~~

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein the reaction of formula (V) with one of a compound of formula (VI) and a compound of (VIa) is carried out at a stoichiometric ratio from 1.0 to 5.0 of [[a]] the one of compound of formula (VI) [[or]] and the compound of (VIa) to [[a]] the compound of formula (V) ranges from 1.0 to 5.0.

19. (currently amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the stoichiometric ratio ~~of a compound of formula (VI) or (VIa) to a compound of formula (V)~~ ranges is from 1.1 to 3.0.

20. (currently amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein the reaction of formula (V) with one of a compound of formula (VI) and a compound of (VIa) is carried out in an ether solvent or mixtures thereof with an apolar solvent, at a temperature ranging from 20°C to the reflux temperature.